

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 6-12 are withdrawn from consideration.
Claims 1-5 and 13-20 stand rejected.

Rejections

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 1-5 and 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,708,046 issued to Bach et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bach").

To more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention, claim 1 is hereby amended and claim 2 is canceled. Bach does not teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended. In the least, Bach does not teach that the "contact element is at least partially received through at least one aperture passing through an upper half-shell of the foil holder to allow the contact element to abut the at least one conductive line in a contact region," as required by claim 1. The Applicants submit that since Bach does not teach each and every element of claim 1, Bach cannot be held to anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 (and dependent claims 3-5 and 21-27) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). While claims 3-5 are amended to correct claim dependency, clarify antecedent basis, and to improve claim clarity, the Applicants believe the above remarks to equally apply to claims 3-5 as amended.

With regard to claims 13-16, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's finding that Bach teaches each and every element of the present invention as claimed. However, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention, claim 13 is hereby

amended. Amendment of claim 13 is not an admission of merit to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection of claim 13 and the Applicants assert that claims broader than claim 13 may appropriately be asserted in this or related applications. Further, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's finding that claims 13-16 are identical to those in the apparatus claims, especially as claims 1 and 13 are amended. Further, the Applicants point out that it is clear that claim 13 comprises limitations not found in claim 1, for example, the limitation of "assembling the contact housing on the foil holder after the foil holder is connected to the foil cable." Since the Applicants do not believe claims 1 and 13 to be identical, the Applicants respectfully point out that In re Angstadt, 537 F.2d 498, 190 USPQ 214, 217 (C.C.P.A. 1976) requires that all claim limitations must be given effect. Finally, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner comply with 37 CFR § 1.104(c)(2) by citing the particular part of the reference relied on and clearly explaining how the reference (Bach) anticipates each limitation of claim 13. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 13 is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13 (and dependent claims 14-16) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). While claims 14-16 are amended to clarify antecedent basis and to improve claim clarity, the Applicants believe the above remarks to equally apply to claims 14-16 as amended.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,068,912 issued to Hudson, Jr. et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hudson").

With regard to claim 17, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's finding that Hudson teaches each and every element of the present invention as claimed. However, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention, claim 17 is hereby

amended. Amendment of claim 17 is not an admission of merit to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 17 and the Applicants assert that claims broader than claim 17 may appropriately be asserted in this or related applications. Hudson does not teach each and every element of claim 17 as amended. In the least, Hudson does not teach "assembly recesses formed in sides of the remaining of the two half-shells for receiving, in a pre-assembled position, respective projections of a retaining clip formed on a contact housing of the electrical connector," as required by claim 17. Instead, Hudson teaches apertures 52, 54 located on legs 46, 48 that extend from a bottom clamping member 24 (see Figure 2). The aperture 52 cannot be said to be "in sides of" bottom clamping member 24 since the leg 48 is offset toward the center of bottom clamping member 24 rather than running along a side of the bottom clamping member 24.

Still further, Hudson does not teach the limitation "the contact housing being movable from the pre-assembled position into a final, assembled position, in a *direction parallel to a plane defined by the foil cable*," as required by claim 17. Instead, Hudson teaches a connector housing 10 in a pre-assembled position (see Figure 2) where the connector housing is aligned with and located below bottom clamping member 24. The next step of assembling the connector housing 10 to the bottom clamping member 24 involves moving the connector housing 10 into a final assembled position (see Figure 3) by moving the connector housing 10 *orthogonally toward* the bottom clamping member 24 and in a direction *orthogonal (not parallel)* to a plane defined by the flat flexible cable 16.

The Applicants submit that since Hudson does not teach each and every element of claim 17, Hudson cannot be held to anticipate claim 17. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim

17 is in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 (and dependent claims 18-20) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). While claim 18 is amended to clarify antecedent basis and to improve claim clarity, the Applicants believe the above remarks to equally apply to claim 18 as amended.

New Claims

New claims 21-27 are hereby added. Claims 21-27 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered allowable.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-5, and 13-27, and issuance of a Patent for the subject invention. If the Examiner cares to discuss anything presented here to further prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney for the Applicants. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,

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